

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated January 20, 2006 and the Advisory Action dated May 4, 2006 have been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 29.

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 7, 8, 11, 24 and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer, and adds new claim 33. Accordingly, claims 28-33 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 29-30 are objected to because of typographical errors. Applicant respectfully submits that this objection is now believed to be moot in view of the current amendments in claims 29-30.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 28 and 31-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sposili et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0053450); rejected claims 28 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Voutsas et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,573,163); and rejected claims 7-8, 11, 24, 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sposili et al. in view of Uchida (JP 62-026884).

The rejections of claims 28 and 31-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sposili et al. and claims 28 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Voutsas et al. are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 28 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 28 recites, for example, a combination of elements, "...wherein at least one end of each light transmitting portion has a shape of one of triangle and semicircle and a width of said at least one end is smaller than a width of a central point of the light transmitting portion." None of the cited reference teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 28 and claims 31-32, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 7-8, 11, 24, 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sposili et al. in view of Uchida is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. With respect to claims 7-8, 11, 24 and 27, this rejection is rendered moot in view of cancellation of the claims at issue. With respect to claim 30, Applicant respectfully submits that

because Uchida fails to teach or suggest the deficient teaching of Sposili et al. as discussed with respect to claim 28, claim 30 is allowable over the cited references.

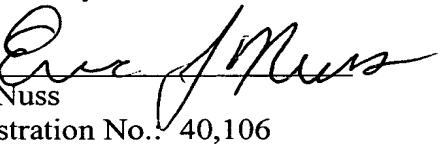
New claim 33 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 33 recites, for example, a combination of elements, "...a stripe-shaped light transmitting portion having an end with a taper for passing the laser beam." An example of support for the aforementioned feature is found in Fig. 6A or Fig. 6B. None of the cited reference teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 33 is allowable over the cited references.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: May 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Eric Nuss
Registration No.: 40,106
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant

because Uchida fails to teach or suggest the deficient teaching of Sposili et al. as discussed with respect to claim 28, claim 30 is allowable over the cited references.

New claim 33 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 33 recites, for example, a combination of elements, "...a stripe-shaped light transmitting portion having an end with a taper for passing the laser beam." An example of support for the aforementioned feature is found in Fig. 6A or Fig. 6B. None of the cited reference teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 33 is allowable over the cited references.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

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